(a) whether Government is considering construction of a new bridge as an alternative to the old bridge over river Tista falling on National Highway No. 31, out of the budget for new bridge; and

(b) whether Government is aware that the bridge, on the river Tista on National Highway No. 31 that passes through Siliguri, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Dooars and North East has become very old?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Complaints received by NHAI regarding bad condition of roads under NHDP

2855. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many complaints has been received by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) regarding bad condition of roads under National Highway Development Project (NHDP);

(b) the steps taken by NHAI for redressal of complaints;

(c) by when NHAI is going to resurface the existing highways of NHDP length in Gujarat; and

(d) the planning and time frame fixed by NHAI for resurfacing of roads damaged during the recent monsoon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) A number of complaints have been received regarding bad condition of various roads under NHDP from time to time. It was mainly due to damage of roads during monsoon season and poor maintenance by some contractors. Concerted efforts are made by NHAI for carrying out urgent repair work, re-surfacing, termination of contract of non-performing contractors and re-awarding the work etc. Provisions have been made in the operation & maintenance contracts to ensure that road is made traffic worthy and serviceable. Flood damage repair is also undertaken as and when required.

(c) and (d) Repair and maintenance is an ongoing process and roads under NHDP in Gujarat are being maintained in traffic worthy condition. Resurfacing is done generally once in five years.

Construction of bypass on National Highways around Jaipur city

†2856. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to heavy traffic on National Highways bypasses are required around Jaipur city;

(b) if so, the time by which the clearance will be given by the Government of India for construction of a bypass linking Ajmer-Jaipur road (NH-8) to Jaipur-Tonk road (NH-12); Tonk-Jaipur road (NH-12) to Jaipur-Agra road (NH-11) and Agra-Jaipur road (NH-11) to Jaipur-Delhi road (NH-8); and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is already a Jaipur by-pass on western side of NH-8 connecting NH-8 (Delhi-Jaipur), NH-11 (Jaipur-Bikaner) and NH-8 (Jaipur-Ajmer). Proposal for construction of ring road/bypass is included in National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-VII approved by the Government.

Cutting of trees for construction of roads

2857. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether trees planted along the roads in the country have been cut during the construction of roads under your department;

(b) the total number of trees cut all over the country including Uttar Pradesh and the details of the varieties of these trees alongwith their botanical names, State-wise;

(c) whether the trees of the same variety have been planted in lieu of the trees which have been cut and if not. the reasons therefor: and

(d) whether Government has any plan to plant trees of the same variety which have been cut, so that the environment can be saved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) During widening and improvement of National Highways, existing trees are generally preserved as far as possible. Where the cutting of trees are unavoidable, the executing Agencies take clearance from the concerned Government Departments. For major projects, environment clearance which includes cutting of trees, is obtained from the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

(b) Details of the number of trees cut all over the Country including Uttar Pradesh, is not maintained.

(c) and (d) Requisite amount for compensatory afforestation is deposited with the Forest Departments. At least twice the number of trees cut are planted under compensatory afforestation. The choice of species is left to the discretion of Forest Departments.

Allocation of funds for NHDP-IV

2858. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for completion of highways under National Highways Development Project (NHDP-IV);

(b) the length of road laid so far and the length of road for which contract has been awarded but the work has not been started and the length of road for which contract has not been awarded so far;